

Remarks/Arguments:

In the Office action dated August 26, 2004, claims 9-15 and 19-24 were withdrawn from consideration in response to Applicant's election of Species 3 in an earlier restriction requirement. The Examiner also indicated that Claims 1-8 are allowed, and Claim 18 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the rejected base claim. In response, Applicant has rewritten Claim 18 in independent form. The Examiner also rejected Claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,039,591 to Marsh et al. ("Marsh"). In response, Applicant has amended Claim 16 to more accurately claim Applicant's invention and has cancelled Claim 17. The following remarks illustrate that Marsh does not anticipate Claim 16 as amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**Claim 16:**

Marsh does not anticipate Claim 16 in light of the amendment to Claim 16 entered herein. Applicant has amended Claim 16 to recite movement of a distal end of the prong. As described in paragraph 0012 of Applicant's published application and shown in Applicant's Figs. 28-31, the distal end of the prong moves upwardly, downwardly, inwardly or outwardly in response to the force applied to the prong by the plunger. The device in Marsh causes the blades or prongs to expand, as shown in Marsh Fig. 2. The distal end of the blade or prong in Marsh does not move. Thus, Marsh does not disclose the step of "actuating a rotatable collar around the plug causing a plunger within the plug to move along the prong, thereby applying force to the prong to move a distal end of the prong causing the plug to clamp within the socket" and thus does not anticipate Claim 16.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 and 16-18 are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of same and notice of allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application and requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application, particularly before the issuance of a final rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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